

Regional Services Council Meeting—Region 14
9/27/05

The first meeting of Region 14's Regional Services Council (RSC) was held on 9/27/05 at the Bartholomew County DCS. Those in attendance: Heather Mollo, Dennis Carmichael, Mary Medler, Hon. Jack Tandy, Mike Williams, Keith Weedman, and Ruth Alewine.

The following items were discussed:

- Director Payne's letter from July 05 which described the RSC. Voting membership for the RSCs include 3 Judges, 3 Local Office Directors, 1 Supv, 1 FCM, CASA/GAL, and a Foster Parent. Service Providers cannot be members due to the potential for conflict of interest. While only 3 LODs have voting rights, the remaining 2 LODs are welcome to attend RSC meetings. Other entities may provide input (i.e. Probation), and Ad Hoc committees may be formed at some point, as well. **Let Ruthi know if you have suggestions for entities/committees.**
- An agenda will be provided for each RSC meeting, and minutes will be taken.
- Existing Indiana State Police Posts/Districts assisted in the new DCS organization/regionalization. There are now 18 regions with Lake and Marion separated into their own "regions." It is hoped that regionalization will assist in statewide consistency.
- Regions 14, 15, and 18 will combine for monthly Regional Director Meetings.
- "Opportunities and Challenges" (handout)
- Child Welfare Services \$ may be combined regionally at some point (2007?).
- MB Lippold at Central Office has been working on RFP for Residential Contracts (statewide) as well as Prevention \$ (\$1.3 million) which will be available to the regions.
- **Question: Are Child Welfare Services dollars State (tax) money or TANF Block Grant money? (Response as of 9/30 is that these funds have been State funds since 2000 and not TANF.)**
- Child Welfare Service programs within the 5 counties were discussed.
- Change in philosophy: "We can't be all things to all people."
- **Question: Does the "4Ps" include Probation? Yes.**
- Current IV-B contracts run through 6/30/06. The new RFP is out. The current IV-B coordinators have been assigned to the new regions with a few changes for some counties. (Region 14 will be using Shively.)
- Handouts for "Family Group Conferencing", "Intensive Family Reunification Services", and "Intensive Family Preservation Services." **Question: Is anybody using Family Group Conferencing now?**
- Ruthi's Excel document (Handout) will capture services/region.
- It was suggested that "staggered terms of service" be implemented for RSC membership. Ruthi indicated she wants to incorporate as much diversity into the group as possible. She will be contacting individuals to fill the remaining slots.
- Dennis Carmichael, Mike Williams, and Mary Medler will be the first 3 LODs to serve on the RSC.
- Mark Loyd, Johnson County Circuit Court Judge, Heather Mollo, Bartholomew County Circuit Court Referee, and Jack Tandy, Shelby County Superior Court Judge will be the first 3 Juvenile Judges to serve on the RSC.
- It is anticipated that the RSC will meet possibly monthly at first and then quarterly thereafter. Each meeting is anticipated to last approximately 1.5 hours.

- Guest speakers/presentations by providers may be included on future RSC agendas.
- Other questions from the members: **Will there be RFPs done by counties for 2006 CWS funds? Will Early Intervention teams continue to function or will the RSC replace them?** (Since EI teams are statutorily set, we would need legislation to change this.) **Will there still be a way with CWS funds for a county to do foster parent recognition dinners or events and to supply items for non-CHINS children such as clothing? Will the IV-B contracts effective 7-1-06 be evaluated and decided upon by the RSC? Is the RSC subject to the Open Door Law?** (Question emailed to John Wood on 9-28-05.) **Must all counties in a region use the same provider for a particular service, or may we have more than one provider doing the same service?**
- Each member in attendance provided his/her contact information for reference. (Attached)
- **The next meeting of the RSC will be held at 9:00 AM on 11/15/05 (Tuesday) at the Bartholomew County DCS. Please review the handouts and be prepared to discuss what presently “works” within our communities as well as our “wish lists” for additional services.**

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